

Abstract

A network hub structure for connecting network elements of a first WDM network supporting a first bit rate WDM data stream to other network elements on a second optical network supporting a second bit rate data stream which is substantially a multiple n of the first bit rate; the hub structure comprising a multiplexing system comprising a plurality of multiplexing units, each multiplexing unit being arranged to multiplex n first WDM data streams into one second data stream, and a switching unit arranged, in use, to selectively cross connect any n first WDM data streams originating from one or more of the network elements of the WDM network destined for any same one of said other network elements to one of the multiplexing units for multiplexing into one said second data stream.

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